

# ‘What do I do next – my child has not been offered my first preference junior school?’

## General advice

In all cases we recommend that you:

- **Accept the offer your child has received.** Accepting the offer does not stop an offer being considered for a school listed as a preference on your child's Common Application Form (CAF) later on, but it will secure a place for your child.
- Ask for your child's name to remain on the waiting list at any of the schools applied for
- Contact Lambeth School Admissions Team after 10 May 2024 for details of any vacancies in Lambeth schools and apply for another school, if you wish.

**Q1: Why wasn't my child offered a place at any of the schools I selected on the Common Application Form (CAF) as a higher preference?**

**A: For each of these schools there were more applications than places, and offers would have been made according to the school's published admissions criteria,** and other children had a higher priority than your child under the school's published admission criteria.

**We strongly recommend that you accept the offer your child has received, and ask to remain on the waiting list for any higher preference schools,** as there is no guarantee that you child will be offered a place at a school you listed as a higher preference on the CAF.

Details about how offers were made for Lambeth's junior school will be published online on the Lambeth junior admissions webpage shortly after 16 April 2024.

If you would like more information about the reason why your child was not offered a place at the schools applied for, you should contact the admissions authority that is responsible for allocating places at each school within the next few days.

Lambeth has one junior school, their details are:

Table 1

<b>Lambeth school</b>	<b>Type of school</b>	<b>Admissions Authority telephone number</b>
St Bernadette Catholic Junior School	voluntary-aided	020 8673 2061

To speak to the admissions authority for an out of borough junior school, please see Table 1 for neighbouring authority's telephone numbers. If the authority you require is not listed, please contact Lambeth Schools Admissions Team who will be able to provide a contact number.

Please telephone any foundation, voluntary aided schools and academies in other boroughs directly.

Table 2

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Telephone number</b>
Bromley	020 8313 4044
Croydon	020 8726 6400
Lewisham	020 8314 8282
Merton	020 8274 4906
Southwark	020 7525 5337
Wandsworth	020 8871 7316
City of Westminster	020 7745 6433

**Q2: Can I request that my child's name remains on the waiting list of any of the schools that I applied to but did not receive an offer from?**

**A: Yes.** If you wish your child to remain on the waiting list, you must contact the school's admission authority. For community please contact the local authority the school is in. For voluntary aided, foundation schools and academies, please contact the school, directly. Please refer to Tables 1 and 2 for further information on who to contact about this.

Please note that details of waiting list places will not be available immediately, as lists need to be reordered which may take a week or so to include late applications etc.

Please also be aware that waiting lists are maintained in accordance with the school's admissions criteria. Usually these are kept until 31 December 2024 (one term after the start of the new academic year). This is the case for Lambeth community schools. After this time a new In-Year application is required for your child's name to continue on the waiting list.

**Q3: If I accept the offer my child has been given now will this prevent him/her receiving a later offer at a school I prefer?**

**A: No.** We strongly recommend that you accept the offer your child has received now so that it is secured, as there is no guarantee that they will be offered a place at another school later on. **Please note that Lambeth Schools Admissions Team will not accept any rejections of offers until you are able to demonstrate that you have made alternative arrangements for your child's education, or if you have been made an offer elsewhere.**

**Q4: Can I appeal against the decision to not offer my child a place at any of the schools I applied for?**

**A: Yes.** Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, you have the right to appeal against the decision not to admit your child to a school. If you wish to appeal against the decision not to offer your child a place, please contact the school and enquire how you can submit such an appeal. If your application for a school place was submitted on-time, appeals need to be lodged by the deadline set but the school/borough for them to be heard before the summer holidays. For late applications, an appeal should be lodged within 20 school days of receipt of application outcome letter. Appeals lodged after these dates will be heard within 40 school days of the appeal deadline or 30 school days of being lodged, whichever is the later date.

For further information not covered in this Q&A sheet, you can contact an officer in the Lambeth School Admissions Team via [schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk) or 020 7926 9503.

### **Glossary of terms**

**Admissions authority** = the body responsible for the admission of children to a school.

**Admissions criteria** = the rules admissions authorities use to look at applications and to decide which children are given places at a school.

**Appeal** = This is a formal request to a "higher" body to review the action, procedure, or decision of an admissions authority, which did not offer a child a place at the school. For school appeals, this higher body would be an independent appeals panel). Pursuing an appeal does not guarantee a place will be offered at the school.

**Common Application Form (CAF)** = This is a pre-formatted paper or online form that parent/carers MUST complete in order to apply for a school place for their child. This online or paper form must be submitted to Lambeth School Admissions Team if this is the child's home Local Authority.

**Preference** = the school(s) parent/carers list on the CAF that they would like their child to attend. If parent/carers are applying for more than one school then these schools should be listed in the order of your preferred choice, i.e., the school you most want your child to attend as preference 1, your second choice as preference 2, and so on.

**Supplementary Information Form** = an additional information form that is required by some schools, mainly church schools, If a school requires this form to be completed then parent/carers MUST complete both the Common Application Form and the supplementary form.

**Waiting list** = the list of children who have applied to a particular school which was not able to make an offer at the time of application, but who are willing to place the child on this "list". Children who reject an offer will have their place filled by children on this list. This list is managed in line with the school's admissions criteria.